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The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" I am not quite sure whether it was formally offered. I have stated before that if a municipality or district board is ever willing to undertake the distribution, preference will be given to it."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether the previous support of the municipality to the company has in any way altered the position so far as the Government is concerned? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" The resolution itself was passed recently, I believe."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" I would like to know from the Hon. the Law Member as to whether the resolution that was passed by the Wallajah Municipality has in any way changed the policy of the Government in regard to the matter under consideration? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu :—" That question has not at all been considered."

Refusal of licence to private bodies for distribution of Mettur power in the North Arcot district.

* 637 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have finally decided to refuse licences for distributing Mettur electric energy in the North Arcot district except in the taluks where licences had already been granted?

A.—The Government have rejected one such application for a licence and have not yet passed final orders on another similar application, pending receipt of the reply to a reference made to the applicant.

Prisons and Prisoners

Observance of Ramzan by the Muslim convicts in jails.

* 638 *Q.*—K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Muslim convicts (males and females) in each jail;

(*b*) the number of convicts who observed fasting during the month of Ramzan in each jail; and

(*c*) whether the Hon. the Law Member will be pleased to issue orders to give rice diet to such of the convicts as observe fasting?

A.—(*a*) There were 2,564 Muslim convicts (2,483 males and 81 females) confined in the various jails of this Presidency in 1934. Information for the year 1935 and separately for each jail is not available.

(*b*) The Government have no information.